Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07629 231710Z

46

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 /016 W

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P R 231355Z SEP 76 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1860 INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

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DEPT FOR A/SY/FO; KARACHI FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ASEC, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT CHANCERY EXTERNAL SECURITY FORCES

REF: BEIRUT 7490

- 1. THE MISSION'S TEN (10) MAN LEBANESE ARAB ARMY (LAA) CONTINGENT WHICH PERFORMS EXTERNAL SECURITY DUTIES OUTSIDE THE CHANCERY WAS RELIEVED SEP 23 AT 1300 BY A THIRTY (30) MAN DETAIL FROM THE SAME ORGANIZATION. RSO MET WITH THE LIEUTENANT IN CHARGE AND WAS INFORMED THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO PROTECT THE EMBASSY. HE WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PROVIDE ANY REASONS FOR THE INCREASED SIZE OF THE DETACHMENT. HE ALSO COULD NOT INDICATE THE DURATION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT.
- 2. THE NEW DETACHMENT IS HEAVILY ARMED AND IS COMPLETELY UNIFORMED, INCLUDING HELMETS. THEY HAVE MOVED INTO THE EMBASSY-BUILT BARRACKS AREA BEHIND THE CHANCERY FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT. THEY ARE SUPPLIED WITH BEDROLLS AND COOKING GEAR.
- 3. A CHANGE OF PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY CONTINGENT IS NOTHING NEW BUT THE TIMING AND THE NUMBERS INVOLVED MAY BE SIGNIFICANT. ALTHOUGH ANY EVALUATION WOULD BE SPECULATIVE AT THIS MOMENT, MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE AND REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LANE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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